

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for accessing Internet resources provided by a content server in a data transmission system including an HTTP proxy connected to the Internet network, said HTTP proxy being adapted to perform form-based authentication of a user when receiving a user request for Internet resources therefrom, and wherein said proxy transmits the user request to said content server which sends back a response to the proxy; said method comprising:

- receiving a user request from a user for Internet resources at an HTTP proxy;
 - transmission from said proxy to a Single Sign On (SSO) server of said user request together with credentials associated with said user, wherein said SSO server is external to and accessible via the Internet to said HTTP proxy,
 - obtaining by the SSO server a login form from the content server, wherein said SSO server has at its disposal a configuration file for obtaining and filling said login form, said configuration file providing information about said content server,
 - filling by said SSO server of the login form obtained from said content server, said login form being filled by the SSO server using said credentials,
 - transmission from the SSO server to the content server of the filled login form,
 - transmission by said content server to said SSO server of an HTTP response to said user request after the content server receives the filled login form from said SSO server, wherein any session cookie augmenting the HTTP response is opaque to the SSO server and the HTTP proxy allowing the content server to verify proper identification of the user upon a subsequent request,
 - sending of the HTTP response back to the HTTP proxy by the SSO server and,
 - transmission by said HTTP proxy of the requested information to said user, said information being contained in said HTTP response,
- wherein subsequent user requests are forwarded directly from the HTTP proxy to the content server, and HTTP responses to the subsequent user requests are transmitted directly to the proxy by the content server, without going through the SSO server.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the configuration file includes information including at least one of an URL of a login page, a location of said login page, a name of an input field used for a username and a name of an input field used for a password.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said HTTP response from said content server sent back to said HTTP proxy includes at least one cookie specific to said content server.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising an initial step of transmitting by said user a first request to said HTTP proxy invoking an external URL configured in said HTTP proxy, said HTTP proxy sending back an authentication challenge to said user in order to verify the user credentials and checking whether the user credentials correspond to a valid user.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) Data transmission system including a HTTP proxy connected to the Internet network and a content server to which a user can gain access through said HTTP proxy, said HTTP proxy being associated with authentication means adapted to perform form-based authentication of the user when receiving a user request for Internet resources therefrom and wherein said HTTP proxy transmits the user request to said content server which sends back a HTTP response to said HTTP proxy; said authentication means comprising:

a Single Sign-On (SSO) server adapted to receive from the HTTP proxy a user request and credentials associated with the user, to obtain a login form from said content server when receiving said user request from said HTTP proxy, to fill in said login form using the credentials associated with said user, and to send back the filled login form to said content server, so that said content server can provide the requested information to the HTTP proxy after authentication of said user, wherein said SSO server has at its disposal a configuration file for obtaining and filling said login form, said configuration file providing information about said content server such as the URL of the login page, wherein said SSO server is external to and accessible via the Internet to said HTTP proxy,

wherein subsequent user requests are forwarded directly from the HTTP proxy to the content server, and HTTP responses to the subsequent user requests are transmitted directly to the HTTP proxy by the content server, without going through the SSO server, wherein any session cookie augmenting the HTTP response is opaque to the SSO server and the HTTP proxy allowing the content server to verify proper identification of the user upon a subsequent request.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) Data transmission system according to claim [[8]] 7, wherein the configuration file includes information including at least one of an URL of a login page, a location of said login page, a name of an input field used for a username and a name of an input field used for a password.

10. - 11. (Cancelled).